

1 MR. GASKINS: Object to the form.

2 MR. CASEY: Object to the form.

3 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

4 Q (BY MR. GASKINS) Do you believe that his
5 allegations of cheating on the promotional examination
6 in the highway patrol touch on a matter of public
7 concern or public interest?

8 A No.

9 Q At some point in early 2019, did the AG's
10 office contact DPS and ask it not to proceed further
11 with any administrative actions involving the
12 blackmail allegation?

13 A That's my understanding.

14 Q How did you gain that understanding?

15 A Jason Holt called me and said -- I believe
16 that Tom Helm, who's the investigator to whom the
17 matter was assigned, for ultimately the grand jury,
18 called him. And I'm assuming that. He didn't tell me
19 that.

20 He just called me and said, the AG's office
21 has asked me to request the department to halt
22 administrative actions related to this matter until
23 the criminal matter is concluded.

24 And we did have a fairly lengthy
25 conversation about that. Because I said, Jason, that